Costly open sky policy

1416. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Tribune of June 11, 1997 captioned "costly open sky policy"; and

(b) if so, how far the open sky policy has proved costly to Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total outstanding dues pending recovery from private airlines are as under:—

Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT) (as on 1.7.1997)

Dues	Rs. 23.13 crores
Interest	Rs. 12.76 crores
Penalty	Rs. 15.40 crores
Total	Rs. 51.29 crores

Various charges, fees etc. of Airports Authority of India

(as on 31.5.1997)
Rs. 25.01 crores

Information on the amount outstanding recovery by the oil companies is being collected.

Proposal to decongest airport at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai

1417. SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under its consideration to decongest airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai and allow foreign chartered flights to land at Agra, Jaipur, Varanasi and Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether any plan has been formulated to upgrade airports at Agra, Varanasi, Jaipur and Bangalore as international airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Decongestion of international airports is a continuous process. Airports Authority of India has taken over slot allocation for both international and domestic flights so that the flights are segregated in such a manner to ease the congestion at airports. Apart from this, works relating to construction of new terminals and modification of existing terminals to handle additional traffic at Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi airports have been taken up and are in progress. Limited international charter flights are already operating from Agra, Jaipur, Varanasi and Bangalore airports.

(c) and (d) Agra, Varanasi, Jaipur and Bangalore airports already cater to limited international operations. Customs, Immigration and Health facilities are available at these airports. Expansion and modification of terminal building and extension of runway at Jaipur have been completed. Construction of new integrated international terminal building at Bangalore airport and expansion and modification of terminal building at Agra airport are expected to be completed in early 1998. Expansion proposal for Varanasi airport is at the planning stage.

Helicopter service from Guwahati to Shillong

1418. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the assured helicopter service would be operative from Guwahati to Shillong (Hemroi) Airport; and

(b) the proposed fare for the said services?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The helicopter service between Guwahati and Shillong is not likely to be commercially viable. As the issue of providing subsidy to Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited has not yet made any headway so far, it may not be possible to start any such service for the present.

Building an airport at Kunnur in Kerala

1419. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to build an airport at Kunnur in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the time schedule for implementing the project; and

(d) how Government propose to mobilise resources?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) The matter is under examination.

Installation of X-ray machine at Imphal Airport

1420. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the X-ray machine for registered baggage checking at Imphal airport has not been installed;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no foolproof security in the checking of registered baggages;

(c) if so, how safety and security hazard can be avoided in the present position of the Airport; and

(d) by when X-ray machine is to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Manual checking and reconciliation of registered baggages are done before loading, to ensure foolproof security.

(d) One X-Ray Baggage machine is functioning for screening of hand baggages of the passengers. No requirement has been projected by the concerned agencies for provision of X-Ray Baggage machines for checking registered baggages.

Percentage of Manufactured Articles in the Country's total export

1421. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of manufactured articles in the total export of the country during the years 1991-92 to June, 1997;

(b) what are the major items, that contribute for the exports;

(c) whether there is any decline in the incentives for exports of any of such items;

(d) the items for which markets have been lost in the recent period which were built up in the past; and

(e) which are the countries to which we have lost our market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Though the value of exports have come down for some commodities in some markets, no markets have been lost, completely. Export growth in 96-97 has been sustained on a higher base achieved in recent years.

Statement

(a) The percentage share of manufactured articles in the total export of the